

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 36. A pallet comprising:
2 a first component having a first upper surface, and a first lower surface
3 including a first plurality of cross-rib members;
4 a second component having a second lower surface, and also having
5 a second upper surface which includes a second plurality of cross-rib members
6 corresponding to the first plurality of cross-rib members and mounted thereto;
7 a third component disposed adjacent the second component and
8 having a third upper surface, and also having a third lower surface which includes a
9 third plurality of cross-rib members;
10 a fourth component having a fourth upper surface including a fourth
11 plurality of cross-rib members corresponding to the third plurality of cross-rib
12 members and mounted thereto; and
13 a plurality of intermediate column members extending between the
14 second lower surface and third upper surface for providing spacing therebetween.
- 15 37. The pallet of claim 36, wherein the first and second plurality
16 of cross-rib members form box beam sections.
- 17 38. The pallet of claim 36, wherein the third and fourth plurality
18 of cross-rib members form box beam sections.
- 19 39. The pallet of claim 36, wherein the intermediate column
20 members have at least one end which are formed as a unitary construction with one
21 of the second and third components.
- 22 40. The pallet of claim 36, wherein the plurality of intermediate
23 column members comprise a first intermediate column portion and a second
24 intermediate column portion which are attached to each other, wherein the first
25 intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the second
26 component and the second intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary
27 construction with the third component.

1 41. The pallet of claim 40, wherein the first and second intermediate
2 column portions have mating ribbed surfaces.

3 42. A pallet assembly, comprising:
4 a first pallet component including a first plurality of cross-rib
5 members;
6 a second pallet component including a second plurality of cross-rib
7 members corresponding to the first plurality of cross-rib members, the first and
8 second plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a first plurality of box
9 sections, the second pallet component further including a first opposed surface;
10 a third pallet component disposed adjacent the second pallet
11 component and having a second opposed surface opposite the first opposed surface
12 of the second pallet component, the third pallet component further including a third
13 plurality of cross-rib members; and
14 a fourth pallet component including a fourth plurality of cross-rib
15 members corresponding to the third plurality of cross-rib members, the third and
16 fourth plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a second plurality of box beam
17 sections; and
18 at least one intermediate column extending between the first and
19 second opposed surfaces for providing spacing therebetween.

20 43. The pallet assembly of claim 42, wherein the at least one
21 intermediate column has at least one end which is formed as a unitary construction
22 with at least one of the second and third pallet components.

23 44. The pallet assembly of claim 42, wherein the at least one
24 intermediate column comprises a first intermediate column portion and a second
25 intermediate column portion which are attached to each other, wherein the first
26 intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the second
27 pallet component and the second intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary
28 construction with the third pallet component.

29 45. The pallet assembly of claim 44, wherein the first and second
30 intermediate column portions have mating ribbed surfaces.

- 1 46. A pallet assembly, comprising:
2 a first pallet component including a first plurality of cross-rib
3 members;
4 a second pallet component including a second plurality of cross-rib
5 members corresponding to the first plurality of cross-rib members, the first and
6 second plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a first plurality of box
7 sections, the second pallet component further including a first opposed surface;
8 a first intermediate column portion attached to the first opposed
9 surface of the second pallet component;
10 a third pallet component disposed adjacent the second pallet
11 component and having a second opposed surface opposite the first opposed surface
12 of the second pallet component, the third pallet component further including a third
13 plurality of cross-rib members;
14 a second intermediate column portion attached to the second opposed
15 surface of the third pallet component; and
16 a fourth pallet component including a fourth plurality of cross-rib
17 members corresponding to the third plurality of cross-rib members, the third and
18 fourth plurality of cross-rib members attached to form a second plurality of box beam
19 sections,
20 wherein the first intermediate column portion and a second
21 intermediate column portion having mating surfaces which are attached to each other
22 to form intermediate columns between the second and third pallet components.
- 23 47. The pallet assembly of claim 46, wherein the first intermediate
24 column portion is formed as a unitary construction with the second pallet component,
25 and wherein the second intermediate column portion is formed as a unitary
26 construction with the third pallet component.